EPI Update for Friday, May 31, 2013 Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) lowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- Increase in cases of Shigellosis
- Flooding and health concerns
- John Snow's contributions
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Increase in cases of Shigellosis

This year cases of shigellosis are up 24% compared to the 5 year average. Child care centers are often the site of *Shigella* transmission and outbreaks. In addition to food handlers and health care providers, employees and children diagnosed with shigellosis, who attend child care centers, must document two consecutive negative stool cultures before they can return to the childcare center. This also applies to symptomatic contacts of a confirmed case of shigellosis. For more information, visit: www.idph.state.ia.us/cade/DiseaseIndex.aspx?disease=Shigella.

Flooding and health concerns

Health concerns related to heavy rainfall, flash flooding and exposure to flood waters include:

- Skin and tissue infections following superficial cuts, scratches, abrasions, or insect bites
- Deep tissue infections following puncture wounds or trauma
- Gastrointestinal illnesses following ingestion of contaminated water or food

Flooding and exposure to flood waters does not increase the risk for tetanus, however cleaning up after a flood may increase the risk of a wound that may require tetanus prophylactic treatment. Healthcare providers should ensure that all patients are up-to-date with their tetanus vaccinations (Td/Tdap).

Flood waters that cover the well head of a private well can contaminate the well and make it unsafe to use. If a private water well is flooded:

- Do not drink or cook with water from flooded wells until it is properly disinfected and tested for drinking safety.
- Contact the local county health department or extension service for advice on proper disinfection and how to collect and submit a water sample for testing. Most counties can offer free private well water testing.

For additional information related to disinfecting and testing private water wells, visit: www.shl.uiowa.edu/env/privatewell/ordering.xml.

The IDPH flood-related disease webpage has information concerning flood preparation, response, and recovery (includes info about boil water advisories, flooding and mosquitoes, and cleanup guidelines). Some information is also available in Spanish. For more information, visit: www.idph.state.ia.us/EmergencyResponse/Flooding.aspx.

John Snow's contributions

To read a follow up article on the public health hero, John Snow, and his contributions to the science of medicine and public health - *The singular science of John Snow*- visit www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(13)60829-6/fulltext.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Registration is now open for the 2013 Iowa Immunization Conference, June 12 and 13, at Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center, Des Moines. For more information and to register, visit

www.idph.state.ia.us/ImmTB/Immunization.aspx?prog=Imm&pg=ImmHome.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy (and dryer) week!

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